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Companies recruit at Spring Career Fair

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Over one hundred company recruiters stationed their stalls over at the Hermann Hall lounge, ballroom and auditorium. The companies ranged mainly in the engineering genre like the previous fairs with the big names: Google, Motorola Mobility, Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM) and Here (Nokia).

Student assistants and staff from the Career Management Center (CMC) helped the companies set up their respective stalls, with each one having an average of two recruiting staff. Each table was embellished with products of the company, roles available, majors being hired, and giveaway goodies. The spotlight of the fair was undoubtedly on Google. In fact, the three recruiters who had come were IIT alumni.

The CMC had organized several pre-fair prep events from January 8, onwards, ranging from "The Art of Networking," and "Resume Tips" to "LinkedIn tips." Bonnie Robinson, a professional photographer, also took professional pictures for students at the MTCC Welcome Center for free.

Peter Olson, a fourth-year computer

science student, was satisfied with this semester's career fair. He says there were many companies in the computer science major and it seemed more comprehensive than the last year, although he found the whole process of waiting for hours in line and answering questions an exhausting task. One negative aspect of the fair, he claims, was the CMC website, which did not provide a way for him to filter the list of companies in terms of either full-time or intern options. He had to export the data to a spreadsheet and do the filtering manually. He will be graduating this semester and hopes that the CMC website incorporates a detailed filtering mechanism to make students' job search easier. Olson personally preferred established startups to work in, as they are a great place to grow and learn, according to him.

Architectural firms and companies were larger in number compared to the last career fair. Advait Bhaskar, a second-year architecture graduate student, said, "This time the fair was satisfactory with the main attraction being SOM, a design firm which hires even international students." He claimed that the previously held fair exclusively for the architecture majors was obviously more captivating. Bhaskar went on to say that only eight firms were

in the core design category while the rest were construction firms focusing on other majors. He said, "The quality of the firms was very high this time."

Another architecture student, Gabriel Espinoza, an undergraduate, pointed out that none of the firms had any sort of presentation prior to or on the day of the fair. He prefers that the companies portray their needs and roles a little better with specifics like success rates and openings. He went on to mention that, although the CMC has a lot of pre-career events, they could have been better publicized.

Hardware engineers had a lot to rejoice about at this career fair as well, as several hardware-based companies specializing in chip design and embedded engineering visited the campus for recruitment. They offered both full-time positions as well as internships. AVG automation, a well-established company, sought out candidates in the field of power electronics. Several electrical engineering majors were asked to write a screening test followed by an interview on campus.

A lot of alumni were seen at the fair as well, standing in line, applying for positions amongst other students. One such person was Ara Mcwen, a marketing and communica-

tions specialist who graduated with a Masters in Information Technology and Management. She had over 15 years of experience and a very unique resumé combining website design and communication. She was waiting in a long line for a chance to showcase her acquired skills to the Google recruiters.

Mcwen said, "I am looking to combine traditional skills of writing and marketing with computer skills." Upon being asked how she graded the career fairs at IIT over the years, she replied, "I am always thrilled and happy about the career fairs organized here. They are always diverse and well attended."

While speaking to one of the companies at the fair, Marathon Petroleum Corporation, the other side of the veil was revealed. The hiring manager at Marathon perceived IIT as a great host, with the candidates always being well-prepared. However, he went on to say that some of them are over zealous and it's very important to cut the line between being friendly and over excited. His specific piece of advice was, "Hey! Come give me a firm hand shake, but don't break my arm."



Photos by Katy Banks